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THE

REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE

Appointed to Examine into the

Westminster Electors

CONDUCT of the *H*--- *B*------.

Wherein

The Grievances of the FREE and INDEPENDANT Electors are fairly Stated.

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At a General Meeting of the Free and Independant Electors, held at the Crown and Anchor Tavern in the Strand,

Sir ------ ------ in the Chair.

Mr. Orator *Higgin* opened the Aſſembly with the following

SPEECH.

Gentlemen,

WE thought it incumbent on us to call this General Meeting, in order to give the generous and Free Independent Electors an Account of the Proceedings of their Committee, and to find out Ways and Means to ſtem the Torrent of Misfortunes, which threaten the intire Diſſolution of our Independent Syſtem. Something muſt be done, Gentlemen (and ſpeedily) to keep up the Credit of the Party, as the Eyes of the whole Kingdom are upon us; and if we finiſh this Affair with the ſame Spirit and Vigour with which we began, there is no doubt but every County, Borough, and Corporation in the Kingdom will follow our Example; and that will make Work enough for the Placemen and *French* Strollers, I'll warrant ye.

Firſt of all I muſt inform you, Gentlemen, that no Pains has been ſpared, either by your Committee, or their Agents, to promote that laudable Spirit of Oppoſition and Contradiction, which has for many Years been the glaring Characteriſtic of the Independent Electors of this City. But, Gentlemen, though we cannot boaſt of our Succeſs in this Affair, yet it is neceſſary to keep up the Spirit of the Party. Many already have fallen off, and more, we fear, will follow them; unleſs your Wiſdoms find out proper

Matter to amuſe them. Parading with the Independent Flag, the Cry of *French Strollers*, and other Emblems of Confuſion, which uſed to animate and ring-in our unthinking Friends, is now no more; and *Scandal*, *Detraction*, and *Knavery*, thoſe neceſſary Agents in Time of Election, are become our Bane; for by our too-great Intimacy with thoſe *Virtues*, they have ranked themſelves as Members of our Party; eſpecially ſince that unhappy Affair with the Staymaker's Wife.

Therefore, Gentlemen, as we have loſt all Hopes of gaining our Point one Way, let ut again Unite, with Spirit and Reſolution, to be revenged another: *Weſtminſter-Hall*, Gentlemen, muſt now be the future Scene of our Actions; and, Gentlemen, I have the Pleaſure to aſſure you, that we have more *Bryan Rhapaways* than one to make good our Charge.

This, Gentlemen, is our laſt Reſource; and though our Enemies have got the Victory, yet, by our Unanimity and Perſeverance in this glorious Cauſe of Liberty, we ſhall make it a dear-bought Victory to them.

But, Gentlemen, theſe Things cannot be done without Money; and as our Finances are very low, through the great Expence we have been at to procure *Orators*, *Vouchers*, *Puffers*, *Rappers*, *&c.* we muſt leave it to you to raiſe the neceſſary Supplies; and which if you comply with, we do not doubt but that we ſhall have as many Actions againſt the *H. B.* and his Adherents, as the Majority he has declared againſt us. Then, awake, rouſe from your Lethargy, and ſhew yourſelves *Free Britons*; let us ſhew them, that as we are Free, *We dare be Bold.*

This eloquent Speech was received with a loud Huzza, and *Down with French Strollers*, *&c.*

Then the noble Independent Electors laid their Heads together, in order to find out Ways and Means to bring Offenders to Juſtice; but various Diſputes ariſing, and the Managers being apprehenſive they would in the End fall out among one another; the *Wiſeſt* of them were ſelected from the Multitude, in order to draw up the following Articles, which they called the Report of the Committee, *&c.*

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fo. 131. this to be placed here preceding this fo.

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REPORT, &c.

I. THAT the *H. B.* of *Weſtminſter*, not having the Fear of God before his Eyes, but being prompted by the Inſtigation and Deluſions of the Devil, has, with Malice afore-thought, in an open and bare-faced Manner, and not regarding the Importunities of the Free and Independant Electors of *Weſtminſter*, declared the Right Hon. the Lord *T. duly Elected*; which is abſolutely contrary to the General Voice of the Independent Electors aforeſaid, who voted againſt him; he having at the ſame Time but 170 Majority, and moſt of them *French Strollers*.

II. That the ſaid *H. B.* (not in the leaſt moved by the many kind Offers, both in public and private, which were made to him on the Part of the ſaid Independant Electors) has often been heard to ſay, that he would have no more Regard to the ſaid Independant Electors, than he would to Lord *T.*'s Party, whoſe Voters every Chimney-Sweeper and Black-Shoe knows to be Placemen, Penſioners, and *French Strollers*.

III. That the ſaid Committee have great Reaſon to ſuſpect, that that the ſaid *H. B.* has taken a Bribe from the *French Strollers*, although he before-hand was offered a handſome Gratuity by the *contrary* Party.

IV. That diligent Enquiry be made, whether the Act for the Recovery of Small Debts in the City and Liberty of *Weſtminſter*, was not forwarded by the Friends of the *French Strollers*, in order to procure a Place by way of Bribe for the ſaid *H. B.* and if it ſhould be found to be true, to find out proper Meaſures *to vindicate their Rights and Liberties, and bring Offenders to Juſtice.*

V. That Ways and Means be found out to raiſe a Fund by way of Subſcription, to defray the Expence of Proſecutions, &c. and to make up the Deficiencies of the Committee's old *Sinking Fund.*

VI. That Begging Boxes be put up in the moſt public Parts of the Town, the Method of Advertiſing being thought inſufficient.

VII. That as many Perſons who have been greatly inſtrumental in promoting this moſt laudable Oppoſition, murmur and complain of too much Duty, and too little Pay, it is earneſtly recommended

mended to the noble and generous Independant Electors, *and others*, to forward the Fund before-mentioned, leſt by their expoſing the Myſtery of the Committee, the Cauſe may entirely loſe its Credit, which at preſent ſeems to be on a tottering Foundation.

VIII. That the Opinion be taken of Council learned in the Law, to know, Whether the ſaid Independant Electors are obliged to abide by the Articles for the Form of Scrutiny, ſettled and agreed upon between them and Lord *T.* in the Veſtry-Room of *St. Anne*, eſpecially ſince they have loſt the Election?

IX. That as great Numbers of the Independant Electors have been ſtruck off by the ſaid *H. B.* on Pretence of being bad Voters, Paupers, *&c.* it is recommended to the Party in general, to find out the neceſſary Vouchers (if poſſible) to make them good; and to ſupport the Actions to be brought againſt him for ſuch Breaches of his Office.

Theſe Articles met with the general Applauſe of the Aſſembly, except ſome Objections made againſt the Begging Boxes, which were imagined to be uſeleſs in Town; as the greateſt Part of the Subſcriptions came from *Lancaſhire*, and other loyal Places in the *North*.

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